(c) the amount of allocation made to the State to meet its short and long term needs considering the enormous loss of life and property owing to sea erosion in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The revised and modified proposal from Government of Karnataka estimated to cost Rs. 135.95 crore which includes 49.875 km of new sea wall and 17.605 km of reformation of damaged sea walls in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts has been received in Central Water Commission in March, 2002 for inclusion in the consolidated National Coastal Protection Project.

(c) Flood Management being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, funding, executing and operating flood control schemes including sea erosion primarily rests with the State Governments. The assistance rendered by the Central Government is technical, catalytic and promotional in nature.

An amount of Rs. 0.93 crore as central loan assistance was provided to Government of Karnataka in the year 1991-92 after which the Central Loan Assistance was discontinued as per the decision taken in the 43rd meeting of National Development Council held in December, 1991. Further allocation of funds will depend on the finalisation of National Coastal Protection Project.

Sea-erosion in Karnataka

2224. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coastal areas in Karnataka are facing severe sea erosion;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to prevent sea erosion;

(c) whether the State Government has sought financial assistance in the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003; and

(d) if so, the details of amount sanctioned and released so far during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) some of the

coastal areas in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts in Karnataka State are facing severe sea erosion.

(b) As reported by the Government of Karnataka, 48.26 km long sea wall at different places in the critical reaches at a total cost of about Rs. 5726 lakh has been constructed since 1979-80. During the year 1991-92, Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 0.93 crore was also provided to Government of Karnataka for anti-sea erosion works.

(c) The Government of Karnataka has not sought any specific financial assistance in the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. However, the proposals were received from Government of Karnataka for inclusion in the National Coastal Protection Project and a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(d) No amount has been sanctioned and released to Government of Karnataka during the last three years.

Ancient course of river Saraswati

2225. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a expert committee to trace the ancient course of river Saraswati;

(b) if so, the details of its terms of reference; and

(c) by when this sacred project is going to be completed and what are its budgetary allocations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Water Resources have not set up any expert committee to trace the ancient course of river Saraswati. However, the Ground Water Department, Government of Rajasthan in collaboration with Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad, the Central GroundWater Board (CGWB) and the Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Mumbai, is engaged in identifying potential pockets for ground water in ancient course of river Saraswati through proper construction of the river course through a multi-disciplinary study. Keeping in view the activities involved in the entire process, it is difficult to fix a time frame for its completion.